

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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USINFO FOR IOP/M, IBS/PE/HAUSEMAN

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BELGRADE FOR GRABELL AND HOFFMAN PASS SHERER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PO, U.S., CSCE

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - BELGRADE CONFERENCE

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTARIES APPEARED PORTUGUESE PRESS:

2. CENTER-RIGHT "O DIA" JUNE 15: COLUMNIST MANUEL RODRIGUES FOCUSED
ON HUMAN-RIGHTS ISSUE, STATING THAT "U.S. AND SOVIET DIPLOMATS
CERTAINLY WANT TO AVOID A DISASTROUS COLLISION" AT BELGRADE.

RODRIGUES SAID SOVIETS HAD FAILED TO REALIZE THAT BASKET
THREE HUMAN-RIGHTS PROVISIONS WOULD CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR THEM
WITH THEIR DISSIDENTS. HE ADDED:

"FROM THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES' VIEWPOINT, THE SITUATION
GREW EVEN MORE COMPLICATED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S FIRM INTENTION
TO MAKE HUMAN RIGHTS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL POINTS OF HIS FOREIGN
POLICY. THE SOVIET UNION HAS NO ILLUSIONS AS TO ITS EXTREME
VULNERABILITY IN THIS AREA AND FEARS THE CONSEQUENCES OF A PUBLIC
SPECTACLE IN BELGRADE ABOUT ITS GRAVE DEFICIENCIES. THUS,

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SOVIET DIPLOMACY HAS PROCLAIMED ITS INTENTION TO CONCENTRATE
DISCUSSION ON FUTURE COOPERATION, AVOIDING THE THEME WHICH IT
FINDS DISAGREABLE."

RODRIGUES SAID IF USSR COUNTERACTS WEST ON HUMAN-RIGHTS ISSUE,
IT "WOULD BE IMPLICITLY RECOGNIZING THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE NOT
JUST A PART OF A NATION'S INTERNAL DIALOGUE BUT BELONG TO ALL
HUMANITY."

3. PRO-SOCIALIST "A LUTA" JUNE 14: WRITER NUNO VIEIRA PREDICTED U.S.-USSR CONFRONTATION ON HUMAN-RIGHTS ISSUE AT BELGRADE. HE WROTE: "IN THE EYES OF THE KREMLIN, INTERNATIONAL DETENTE ITSELF IS BEING THREATENED...BUT IT IS NOT ONLY DETENT WHICH IS BEING THREATENED. THE USSR'S PRESTIGE IN THE YEAR OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION ALSO IS PUT INTO CAUSE, WITH THE ACCUSATION THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE NOT RESPECTED IN EASTERN EUROPE..."

4. CENTER-RIGHT WEEKLY NEWSPAPER "TEMPO" EDITOR NUNO ROCHA IS EARLIER STATEMENT ON HELSINKI FINAL ACT: "IT IS A MOVE THAT GIVES HOPE IN EUROPE AND THE WHOLE WORLD. IT HAS PERMITTED PROGRESS ALONG THE WAY, AND IT IS WHAT EUROPE AND WORLD SECURITY MOST NEED TOWARD HUMAN HAPPINESS MAN SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO IMPROVE HIS WAY OF LIFE, TO A FAIR DISCTRIBUTION OF THE WEALTH OF SOCIETY. BUT HE SHOULD ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO HIS FREEDOM, HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRAVEL AND TO THINK AND TO EXPRESS HIMSELF AS HE WISHES AND WHENEVER HE WISHES."
JORDAN

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